IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (New): A balancing device for a suspended element, comprising:

a shaft rotatably supported on a support;

a pair of opposing pulleys attached to the shaft to be rotatable therewith;

a pair of supporting ropes, one end of each of which being attached to the suspended element, and respective other ends being attached to the pulleys, wherein each of the pulleys comprises a spiral groove onto which respective of the ropes can be rolled for translating the suspended element,

wherein the shaft is linked to an end of elastic means whose opposite end is attached to a friction disc, wherein the friction disc is rotatably supported on the support and is configured to be blocked against the support, to allow adjustment of a torsion load caused by simultaneous rotation of the pulleys and the shaft, and is provided with a head surface that is inclined with respect to an axis of the shaft and is configured to be rotated against a corresponding head surface of an opposing friction disc to exert an axial pressure on the friction disc, for blocking the friction disc against the support.

Claim 12 (New): The device of claim 11, wherein the elastic means comprises a spring arranged coaxially with the shaft.

Claim 13 (New): The device of claim 12, wherein the opposite end of the spring is free and independent with respect to the shaft.

Claim 14 (New): The device of claim 11, wherein at least one friction ring is provided to increase friction between the friction discs and the support.

Claim 15 (New): The device of claim 14, wherein the opposing friction disc is rotatably supported on a bush, the bush being supported on the shaft to be axially displaceable with respect to the support, and comprising a shoulder, one of the friction rings being arranged between the shoulder and the opposing friction disc.

Claim 16 (New): The device of claim 15, wherein another friction ring is arranged between the shoulder and the support.

Claim 17 (New): The device of claim 11, wherein the blocking of the friction disc against the support leads to blocking of the rotation also of the end of the elastic means, whose opposite end is engaged in the rotation of the shaft put in rotation by the pulleys, every time the suspended element is vertically moved.

Claim 18 (New): The device of claim 11, wherein the blocking by rotation of the friction disc allows the adjustment of the torsion load required to be provided by the elastic means to balance a weight of the suspended element, in any phase of positioning of the suspended element along its vertical translation.

Claim 19 (New): The device of claim 11, wherein the elastic means is twined around a drum to provide present a larger wider development surface for the elastic means.